

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 247762

14

ORIGIN SNM-02

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 AID-05 AGRE-00 DEAE-00 CIAE-00

INR-07 IO-13 JUSE-00 NSAE-00 TRSE-00 USIA-06 NSC-05

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DRAFTED BY S/NM:RADUGSTAD:OSG

APPROVED BY S/NM:DHERNST

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AID/SER/INC:MMCBEE (SUBS)

USDA:WGENTNER (SUBS)

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DEA:HSAFIR (INFO)

ARA/RPP:GBROWN (INFO)

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P 052230Z OCT 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MEXICO PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652; N/A

TAGS: SNAR, MX

SUBJECT: NARCOTICS PROGRAM - PROPOSED VISIT OF DR. W. A.
GENTNER, USDA

1. DR. GENTNER, HERBICIDE EXPERT, HAS COMPLETED HIS INITIAL
REPORT ON THE USE OF HERBICIDES IN THE ERADICATION CAMPAIGN
BASED ON HIS VISIT TO MEXICO IN AUGUST 1976 AND RECOMMENDS
THAT THE STUDY BE CONTINUED IN MEXICO BY AN INTERDISCIP-
LINARY TEAM OF SPECIALISTS.

2. S/NM HAS REQUESTED USDA TO PROVIDE THE SERVICES OF DR.
GENTNER TO TRAVEL TO MEXICO IN MID-OCTOBER TO CARRY OUT
FURTHER STUDIES FOR A PERIOD OF APPROXIMATELY TWO WEEKS

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PAGE 02 STATE 247762

TO WORK WITH THE MEXICAN OFFICIALS IN IMPROVING THE EFFEC-

TIVENESS AND SAFETY OF THEIR PROGRAM. WE PROPOSE THAT THE STUDY TEAM CONSIST OF DR. GENTNER, MR. JOHN FORD, HERBICIDE APPLICATIONS EXPERT CURRENTLY IN MEXICO AS A MEMBER OF THE U.S. NARCOTICS GROUP, AND A MEXICAN BOTANIST/ECOLOGIST WHO KNOWS THE COMPOSITION AND DISTRIBUTION OF VEGETATION IN THE POPPY GROWING REGION. THE MEXICANS MAY WANT MORE THAN ONE OF THEIR PEOPLE ON THE TEAM, AND WE WOULD ENCOURAGE THIS.

3. WE BELIEVE THAT THE INTERDISCIPLINARY APPROACH WILL

EXPEDITE AND STRENGTHEN THE PLANNED STUDY. IT ALSO SHOULD MEET THE PURPOSE OF DEVELOPING A BROAD ASSESSMENT OF THE MEXICAN EXPERIENCE IN HERBICIDE USE FOR OPIUM POPPY ERADICATION THAT MAY BE USED AS A BASIS OF KNOWLEDGE FOR POTENTIAL DEVELOPMENT OF OTHER SIMILAR PROGRAMS ABROAD. SECONDLY, THIS PROPOSED APPROACH WILL ENABLE THE GOM TO IMPROVE ITS PROGRAM BY INCREASING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE HERBICIDE THROUGH THE UTILIZATION OF THE BEST AVAILABLE TECHNOLOGY WITH MINIMUM IMPACT ON THE ENVIRONMENT.

4. THIS APPROACH WOULD SEEM TO MEET THE REQUEST OF DR. GERTZ, WHO ASKED FOR A CONTINUATION OF DR. GENTNER'S ASSISTANCE AND WOULD FACILITATE DR. GERTZ'S INTENTION TO DEVELOP THEIR OWN CAPABILITY IN THIS FIELD.

5. SOME OF THE AREAS THAT NEED FURTHER EVALUATION BY THE SURVEY TEAM INCLUDE:

A. HAS THE FATIGUE FACTOR OF PILOTS BEEN EVALUATED?

B. ARE AREAS TO BE SPRAYED PROPERLY IDENTIFIED AT THE SPRAY TEAM LEVEL?

C. ARE STANDARDS AND SPECIFICATIONS NEEDED FOR THE PURCHASE AND HANDLING OF HERBICIDES?

D. IS SPRAY EQUIPMENT PERIODICALLY CALIBRATED AND MODIFICATIONS INSTITUTED WHERE NECESSARY?

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PAGE 03 STATE 247762

E. IS WATER USED IN SPRAYING EVALUATED FOR HARDNESS AND MODIFIED WHERE REQUIRED?

F. HAVE THE ADDITIONS OF SURFACTANTS TO SPRAY SOLUTIONS BEEN EVALUATED?

G. HAVE DYES BEEN INVESTIGATED AS THEY MAY BE USED FOR MARKERS OR TO AID IN IDENTIFICATION OF TREATED FIELDS?

H. HAVE INVERT EMULSIONS AND/OR THE SPINNING-DISC APPLICATOR BEEN EVALUATED?

I. HAS MOPS BEEN INVESTIGATED AS A TOOL TO EVALUATE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF HERBICIDE TREATMENTS?

J. IS THERE ADDITIONAL NEED TO RECORD THE CROP CALENDAR OF OPIUM POPPY IN MEXICO?

K. WHAT WILL BE THE SHORT AND LONG RANGE IMPACT OF THE ERADICATION PROGRAM ON THE ENVIRONMENT?

L. OTHER TECHNICAL AREAS SHOULD BE DETERMINED AND INVESTIGATED BY TEAM MEMBERS WHEN THEY HAVE THE POTENTIAL TO IMPROVE THE PROGRAM FOR THE ERADICATION OF OPIUM POPPY IN MEXICO THROUGH THE APPLICATION OF HERBICIDES.

6. ASSUMING THAT THIS PROPOSAL MEETS WITH THE APPROVAL OF THE EMBASSY AND THE GOM, WE WILL ADVISE YOU LATER OF DR. GENTNER'S EXACT ARRIVAL PLANS. HE PRESENTLY EXPECTS TO ARRIVE OCTOBER 12. IT IS IMPORTANT THAT THE SELECTION OF AND APPROVAL OF THE OTHER TEAM MEMBERS BE COMPLETED BY THE TIME OF HIS ARRIVAL SO THAT WORK MAY BEGIN AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE. ROBINSON

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